

# CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

## Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES  
EDITOR

## State Venereal Disease Bureau Established

In August of 1917, the California State Board of Health established a Bureau of Venereal Diseases through the provision of emergency funds by the Governor of California. This bureau operated efficiently until 1920 when its activities were discontinued because of a lack of funds and lack of public interest.

The bureau established by the California State Board of Health in 1917 was the first state bureau of venereal diseases to be established in the country. The war emergency was largely responsible for its organization which was made possible at that time through the use of federal funds devoted to the purpose.

There is now a civic awakening to the importance of venereal disease control and through the provisions of the Social Security Act, funds have been made available by the federal government which will enable the State Department of Public Health to reestablish its Bureau of Venereal Diseases.

The reestablishment of this bureau, supported by public opinion, will enable the coordination and regulation of activities for the control of syphilis that are now being carried on by the various clinics in medical schools and health departments scattered throughout the state. Under the Social Security Act, funds are disbursed through the State Health Officer, it being necessary for him to submit a budget and

plan which meet the approval of the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service.

The main objectives in the present plan for venereal disease control consist of: (a) The provision of adequate facilities for diagnosis and treatment of syphilis; (b) Postgraduate instruction for physicians in the management and control of syphilis; (c) Education of the general public in all matters pertaining to venereal diseases and their control; (d) Stimulation of case reporting and the provision of adequate supervision over active cases of syphilis; (e) Intensive and complete investigations of early and potentially infectious cases of syphilis and their contacts.

In order to facilitate the Department's activities in the control of venereal diseases, new regulations were adopted by the State Board of Public Health on January 2, 1937. These regulations are as follows:

"It shall be the duty of every person who gives treatment for syphilis or gonorrhea to report in writing immediately to the local health officer within whose jurisdiction such patient is, on a card supplied by the State Department of Public Health, the patient's initials, sex and date of birth.

"The local health officer shall forward these reports to the State Department of Public Health at least weekly.

"The physician shall keep a record by name and address of each patient treated.

"The name and address of the patient shall be reported to the local or state health official to whom



the attending physician is required to report such case, upon the special request of such official if in his judgment this may be necessary to prevent the spread of the disease to other persons.

"Whenever any person suffering from syphilis or gonorrhea shall discontinue treatment while in the judgment of the attending physician he is capable of transmitting the disease to others, such physician shall report immediately such facts together with the patient's initials and date of birth to the local or state health official to whom the attending physician is required to report such case.

"Records of any local department of health or of any local health officer or of any laboratory, clinic or other institution relating to cases of syphilis or gonorrhea shall be confidential except in so far as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of the law and these regulations."

In order that adequate facilities and efficient methods of treatment may be made available, basic requirements for the conduct of clinics both as to equipment and methods of procedure are made. A state-wide survey is now being undertaken for the purpose of developing and adopting uniform standards in the conduct of clinics.

Through the use of Social Security funds allotted to the California State Department of Public Health, the following services will be made available:

1. Public health nurses to do follow-up field work in order that patients who begin treatment may continue without lapses which are common in patients suffering from these diseases.
2. Distribution of arensical and bismuth preparations to be used in the treatment of patients who are unable to pay for these supplies and the provision of suitable literature.
3. The provision, in so far as may be possible, for a special short course in social hygiene and venereal disease control for public health nurses at the universities.

In general, the plan for venereal disease control formulated by Surgeon General Parran, while serving as State Health Commissioner of New York, will be followed. Each early case of syphilis, which means one in which the infection is of less than one year's duration, will be investigated, locally, and diligent efforts will be made to identify the contacts of each early case, both prior and subsequent to infection. Individuals so identified will be examined and placed under treatment as required.

Each potentially infectious syphilis case, which means all untreated cases in which the infection is of two years or less duration and all treated cases in which the required course has not been completed, will be investigated, locally, and the contacts of such case following infection will be identified, examined

and placed under treatment as required. These requirements do not apply to cases under the care of a private physician.

Delinquent cases in the local community will be investigated. Each patient, reported as having discontinued treatment for more than seven days while capable of transmitting the disease, will be sought and, if found, will be returned to treatment using such measures as may be necessary.

The Social Security Act, therefore, makes possible immediate action in the control of venereal diseases, and the California program in the prevention and control of syphilis is already under way.

Dr. Malcolm H. Merrill, in charge of the Syphilis Clinic at the University of California School of Medicine, is the Chief of the Bureau of Venereal Diseases of the California State Department of Public Health. Dr. Merrill is a graduate of the St. Louis University School of Medicine and has spent three years in research work at the Rockefeller Institute of Medical Research, New York City. The appointment of Dr. Merrill was announced by Dr. Walter M. Dickie, Director of the California State Department of Public Health.

#### COPIES OF DR. MEYER'S PAPER AVAILABLE

Dr. Karl F. Meyer, medical director of the Hooper Foundation for Medical Research, read a paper at the Health Officers' Section of the League of California Municipalities in Santa Monica, September 9th. The title of this paper is "The Use of Immunobiologics Principles in the Prevention and Control of the Civilization Diseases." This paper is of great value to individuals who may be engaged in direct activities for the control of communicable diseases and in order that it may be available to such public health workers, it has been prepared for distribution in mimeographed form. Copies may be obtained without cost by addressing the Director of the California State Department of Public Health, Post Office Box 1137, Sacramento.

What other generation was ever confronted with such problems as we face! Numerous and difficult though they be, we are unwilling to wait for the slow process of time to deal with them. Nothing then but some form of learning in mature life can lead us out of our difficulties. Within a limited period of time men and women must equip themselves to understand better the forces of society. But some one will ask: Can we not hand our problems over to talented and highly trained individuals? We need, to be sure, their service, but it is only out of widely diffused effort that persons of signal ability emerge.



**HEALTH OFFICERS NEWLY APPOINTED**

Among the changes in health officers that have occurred in California communities during the past few weeks are the following:

Dr. John Stile of Alturas was appointed health officer of Modoc County following the death of Dr. W. E. Coppedge. Dr. Coppedge had served as health officer of the county as well as of Alturas, intermittently, over a long period of years. He maintained an intense interest in the preservation of the public health and served his community faithfully in advancing all public health interests. Dr. Stile has served similarly over a long period of years, he and Dr. Coppedge having alternated in office.

Dr. G. W. Desrosier, for many years the health officer of Colusa County, has been replaced by Dr. Ney M. Salter of Willows. Dr. Desrosier's long years of service had made his services of great value to the community. Dr. Salter, however, has served efficiently as health officer of his community.

Dr. Darius Eschoo has been appointed city health officer of South Pasadena to succeed Dr. Albert Supple.

Dr. Leslie J. Seeley of Redding has been appointed health officer of Shasta County to succeed Dr. O. J. Hansen.

Dr. O. T. Wood of Red Bluff has succeeded Dr. James L. Faulkner as health officer of Tehama County.

Dr. Frank R. Guido has been appointed city health officer of Visalia to succeed Dr. Gilbert Furness.

**DEAN OLSON RETURNS TO U. S. C.**

Dr. Emery E. Olson, Dean of the School of Government, University of Southern California, now on leave to aid in the organization of a training project for federal employees in Washington, D. C., will return to the campus for the next academic year, according to a recent announcement by President R. B. von KleinSmid.

Under Dr. Olson's direction of "In Service" training at the American University over 800 government employees are now registered in courses preparatory to careers in the federal government, similar to the program begun at U. S. C. in 1928.

Since organizing the School of Government at U. S. C. Dr. Olson has directed the training activities of more than 15,000 officials and employees in federal, state and local government units including those in Los Angeles, Washington, D. C., and Seattle.

Politics and economic troubles often hamper educational work. Countries under despotic rule do not give free play to adult education.

**ALAMEDA MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICT REPORT**

Harold F. Gray, engineer of the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District, has issued the annual report of the district for the calendar year ending December 31, 1936. Approximately 25 cents per family was the average cost for mosquito control within the Alameda County district during the calendar year. A population of approximately 460,000 distributed over an area of 320 square miles was served last year. A wide variety of activities in mosquito control was carried on during the period covered by the report. These activities covered not only salt-marsh mosquitoes but other species found in fresh water breeding places in the hill districts. It is doubtful that any other mosquito abatement district in California encounters such a wide variety of intricate problems related to mosquito control; not the least of which is the control of mosquitoes that originate outside of the district. Through cooperation with adjoining mosquito abatement districts, however, excellent results have been obtained. The migration of mosquitoes upon favorable winds from districts where no abatement activities are undertaken constitutes an important problem in mosquito control.

The trustees of the Alameda Abatement District are: M. L. Emerson, M.D., president; M. J. Madison, vice president; Prof. C. G. Hyde, secretary; Howard Bronstein, Burnett Hamilton, Ralph S. Hawley, Prof. W. B. Herms, H. J. Smith, M.D.

As the density of population in our country increases, we shall more and more realize we live in a world where satisfactions lie mainly in the resources of the mind. "What wealth the spirit keeps is the only true wealth." Few have expressed more happily the aims of a well-balanced life than the Greek poet Crates of Thebes: "What I studied and built in thought, I have; the sanctities I learned from the muses, I ever enjoy; but my gold was lost in the illusive haze of vanity."

**MORBIDITY**

Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending January 23, 1937

**Chickenpox**

730 cases: Alameda County 9, Alameda 3, Albany 8, Berkeley 15, Hayward 2, Oakland 34, Piedmont 1, San Leandro 8, Butte County 4, Chico 1, Contra Costa County 2, Martinez 1, Pittsburg 1, Fresno County 5, Fresno 10, Reedley 1, Selma 2, El Centro 1, Kern County 10, Hanford 1, Susanville 2, Los Angeles County 56, Alhambra 4, Compton 2, Glendale 3, Inglewood 1, La Verne 3, Long Beach 16, Los Angeles 80, Monrovia 2, Pasadena 11, Pomona 18, Redondo 4, San Fernando 5, San Gabriel 3, San Marino 13, Santa Monica 4, Sierra Madre 1, Whittier 2, Lynwood 4, South Gate 8, Maywood 1, Chowchilla 12, San Rafael 1, Merced County 1, Monterey County 21, Carmel 10, Salinas 1, Napa County 1, Nevada County 6, Grass Valley 1, Orange County 9, Anaheim 2, Fullerton 2, Newport Beach 1,



Santa Ana 13, Tustin 1, Riverside County 6, Corona 9, Riverside 8, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 24, San Bernardino County 4, Ontario 3, San Diego County 3, Coronado 2, Escondido 2, Oceanside 10, San Diego 26, San Francisco 79, San Joaquin County 1, Lodi 2, Stockton 1, San Mateo County 4, Daly City 1, Redwood City 1, Menlo Park 3, Santa Barbara County 7, Santa Barbara 5, Santa Clara County 17, Gilroy 2, Palo Alto 5, San Jose 8, Santa Cruz County 3, Watsonville 1, Sierra County 3, Stanislaus County 2, Modesto 1, Newman 4, Oakdale 7, Sutter County 1, Tulare County 19, Yolo County 6, Winters 2, Woodland 3.

#### Diphtheria

49 cases: Alameda 1, Kings County 1, Los Angeles County 4, Los Angeles 15, Chowchilla 1, Merced 1, Grass Valley 1, Orange County 3, Santa Ana 1, Corona 1, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 2, Chino 1, National City 2, Oceanside 1, San Diego 5, San Francisco 1, Lodi 1, Turlock 1, Tulare County 1, Ventura County 3, Ventura 1.

#### German Measles

19 cases: Alameda 1, Berkeley 1, Sanger 1, Los Angeles County 3, Glendale 2, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 2, Fullerton 3, San Diego 4, San Francisco 1.

#### Influenza

6862 cases: Alameda County 1, Albany 6, Berkeley 203, Hayward 5, Oakland 99, Piedmont 9, San Leandro 3, Butte County 21, Gridley 12, Calaveras County 14, Contra Costa County 5, El Cerrito 3, Placerville 3, Fresno County 81, Fresno 4, Selma 2, Orland 23, Humboldt County 15, Fortuna 10, Imperial County 2, Westmoreland 6, Inyo County 3, Kern County 193, Bakersfield 13, Kings County 20, Hanford 107, Lemoore 91, Los Angeles County 172, Alhambra 12, Arcadia 3, Azusa 1, Beverly Hills 16, Burbank 3, Claremont 4, Covina 13, Culver City 8, El Monte 1, El Segundo 1, Glendale 13, Glendora 5, Huntington Park 17, Long Beach 104, Los Angeles 974, Monrovia 10, Montebello 1, Pasadena 68, Pomona 5, Redondo 1, San Fernando 1, Santa Monica 11, South Pasadena 3, Whittier 19, Torrance 4, Lynwood 1, Hawthorne 1, South Gate 7, Monterey Park 1, Maywood 12, Bell 4, Gardena 4, Madera County 234, Madera 402, Chowchilla 32, San Rafael 6, Mendocino County 4, Merced County 13, Monterey County 13, King City 13, Salinas 4, Napa County 18, Napa 27, Nevada County 4, Grass Valley 1, Nevada City 41, Orange County 23, Anaheim 35, Brea 8, Fullerton 15, Newport Beach 4, Orange 4, Santa Ana 34, La Habra 2, Laguna Beach 5, Placentia 1, Tustin 4, Riverside County 17, Corona 5, Sacramento County 5, Sacramento 220, San Bernardino County 21, Ontario 54, Upland 15, San Diego County 333, Coronado 4, Escondido 25, La Mesa 50, National City 9, San Diego 84, San Francisco 720, Lodi 2, Tracy 14, San Luis Obispo County 25, Arroyo Grande 2, San Luis Obispo 83, San Mateo County 43, Burlingame 32, Daly City 6, Hillsborough 12, Redwood City 17, San Bruno 8, San Mateo 37, Menlo Park 1, Santa Barbara County 77, Lompoc 3, Santa Barbara 5, Santa Clara County 174, Los Gatos 25, Mountain View 1, San Jose 198, Sunnyvale 5, Santa Cruz County 7, Santa Cruz 2, Watsonville 9, Siskiyou County 12, Solano County 6, Benicia 12, Vacaville 25, Vallejo 5, Sonoma County 91, Petaluma 7, Santa Rosa 26, Turlock 607, Sutter County 3, Tehama County 3, Tulare County 25, Tulare 19, Visalia 204, Tuolumne County 9, Sonora 3, Ventura County 19, Fillmore 1, Oxnard 1, Santa Paula 3, Ventura 7, Yuba County 17, Marysville 6.

#### Malaria

One case: Manhattan.

#### Measles

83 cases: Alameda 4, Albany 1, Berkeley 1, Oakland 4, San Leandro 1, Humboldt County 1, Kern County 2, Los Angeles County 3, Culver City 1, Glendale 4, Long Beach 4, Los Angeles 13, San Fernando 1, South Gate 2, Merced County 2, Los Banos 1, Nevada County 2, Grass Valley 9, La Habra 1, Roseville 18, Sacramento 2, San Mateo County 1, Palo Alto 1, Siskiyou County 1, Tehama County 1, Visalia 2.

#### Mumps

491 cases: Alameda County 2, Alameda 4, Albany 2, Berkeley 20, Oakland 4, Butte County 2, Oroville 9, Contra Costa County 4, El Cerrito 1, Pittsburg 3, Fresno County 14, Fresno 2, Orland 2, Willows 17, Fortuna 1, El Centro 13, Imperial 3, Bishop 1, Kern County 10, Kings County 1, Hanford 5, Los Angeles County 41, Arcadia 1, Beverly Hills 1, Burbank 4, Compton 2, El Segundo 1, Glendale 5, Hermosa 6, Huntington Park 7, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 60, Pasadena 12, Pomona 4, Redondo 4, South Pasadena 2, Whittier 1, Lynwood 5, Hawthorne 4, South Gate 2, Maywood 1, Madera County 2, Madera 1, Chowchilla 13, Merced County 2, Los Banos 3, Napa County 1, Napa 1, Orange County 12, Fullerton 1, Santa Ana 19, Laguna Beach 3, Tustin 2, Lincoln 2, Riverside County 10, Corona 1, Riverside 14, Sacramento 7, San Bernardino County 2, Rialto 3, San Bernardino 3, San Diego County 2, Coronado 8, Escondido 1, National City 8, San Diego 10, San Francisco 32, San Joaquin County 8, Arroyo Grande 1, Daly City 4, Lompoc 2, San Jose 12, Santa Cruz 1, Vallejo 1, Stanislaus County 3, Yuba City 1, Visalia 1, Ventura County 3, Santa Paula 3, Ventura 1, Ojai 1, Woodland 1.

#### Pneumonia (Lobar)

127 cases: Berkeley 2, Oakland 6, Calaveras County 2, Colusa

1, Imperial County 2, Inyo County 1, Lakeport 2, Los Angeles County 3, Alhambra 1, Glendale 1, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 6, Los Angeles 34, Pasadena 3, Pomona 1, South Gate 1, Gardena 1, Madera County 4, Merced 2, Napa County 3, Napa 1, La Habra 1, Riverside 2, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 8, San Diego County 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 13, San Luis Obispo County 1, Paso Robles 2, Burlingame 1, Redwood City 1, Palo Alto 1, San Jose 4, Benicia 2, Tulare County 1, Sonora 1, Ventura County 1, Oxnard 1.

#### Scarlet Fever

317 cases: Alameda 3, Berkeley 3, Oakland 8, Butte County 2, Gridley 1, Contra Costa County 1, Fresno County 19, Fresno 1, Willows 2, Humboldt County 4, Kern County 4, Kings County 4, Los Angeles County 21, El Segundo 1, Glendale 6, Glendora 2, Huntington Park 1, Inglewood 1, La Verne 1, Long Beach 7, Los Angeles 42, Pasadena 2, Pomona 2, Whittier 1, Torrance 1, South Gate 1, Madera County 6, Mill Valley 1, Mariposa County 6, Mendocino County 1, Merced County 4, Merced 3, Monterey County 2, Napa County 4, Napa 8, Orange County 2, Anaheim 3, Santa Ana 1, Lincoln 2, Riverside County 2, Riverside 3, Sacramento County 4, Sacramento 13, San Diego 2, San Francisco 16, San Joaquin County 1, Stockton 1, Tracy 1, Paso Robles 2, San Mateo County 1, Burlingame 2, Redwood City 2, San Bruno 2, Santa Barbara County 1, Lompoc 3, Santa Maria 1, Santa Clara County 2, Palo Alto 5, San Jose 11, Santa Cruz County 12, Santa Cruz 5, Watsonville 1, Shasta County 6, Redding 1, Siskiyou County 4, Dunsmuir 5, Vacaville 1, Stanislaus County 1, Modesto 2, Tulare County 2, Exeter 1, Porterville 5, Tulare 1, Visalia 1, Tuolumne County 2, Ventura County 3, Ojai 1, Yolo County 4.

#### Smallpox

11 cases: Los Angeles County 5, Burbank 1, Riverside County 1, Sacramento 1, Shasta County 1, Dunsmuir 1, Woodland 1.

#### Typhoid Fever

6 cases: Fresno County 1, Lakeport 1, Napa County 1, San Bernardino County 1, Tulare County 1, Visalia 1.

#### Whooping Cough

298 cases: Alameda County 5, Alameda 2, Hayward 1, Oakland 2, Butte County 1, Fresno County 6, Fresno 8, Imperial County 2, El Centro 5, Imperial 3, Westmoreland 2, Bakersfield 6, Los Angeles County 30, Alhambra 1, Burbank 4, Glendale 5, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 68, Montebello 2, Pasadena 2, Redondo 2, San Gabriel 4, Santa Monica 5, Whittier 1, Torrance 1, South Gate 2, Madera County 8, Madera 2, Chowchilla 3, Orange County 4, Anaheim 7, Fullerton 2, Huntington Beach 1, Santa Ana 1, Riverside County 1, Corona 8, San Bernardino County 1, San Bernardino 3, San Diego County 1, San Diego 4, San Francisco 32, San Luis Obispo County 3, Arroyo Grande 1, San Luis Obispo 1, Burlingame 1, Daly City 1, Lompoc 1, Santa Barbara 3, Tulare County 24, Visalia 3, Ventura County 7, Marysville 3.

#### Meningitis (Epidemic)

4 cases: Los Angeles 2, Grass Valley 1, San Diego 1.

#### Dysentery (Amoebic)

2 cases: Los Angeles.

#### Dysentery (Bacillary)

3 cases: Chowchilla 1, Orange County 1, San Diego County 1.

#### Pellagra

One case: Oakland.

#### Poliomyelitis

2 cases: Los Angeles 1, Ontario 1.

#### Encephalitis (Epidemic)

One case: San Diego.

#### Food Poisoning

4 cases: Seal Beach 3, San Francisco 1.

#### Undulant Fever

2 cases: El Centro 1, San Bernardino 1.

#### Septic Sore Throat (Epidemic)

5 cases: Montebello 1, San Francisco 2, Lompoc 1, San Jose 1.

#### Rabies (Animal)

24 cases: Richmond 1, Los Angeles County 6, Inglewood 1, Los Angeles 12, San Joaquin County 1, Santa Cruz County 1, Santa Cruz 1, Visalia 1.